

RHABDITIS DUJARDIN, [NOV. 1844] (NEMATODA): PROPOSED
COMPLETION OF OFFICIAL LIST ENTRY. Z.N.(S.)937

By the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
(CIOMS Case no. 4)

Opinion 104 (*Smiths. misc. Colls*, vol. 73 (5), pp. 25–28, 1928) purported to place the generic name *Rhabditis* Dujardin, 1845a (sic) on the Official List. When the first instalments of the Lists were prepared for publication in book form in 1958, entry no. 483 for *Rhabditis* was not completed because of doubts about the identity of the nominal type species of *Rhabditis*, *R. terricola* Dujardin. However, since Dougherty's action in 1953 (*Thapar commemorative volume*, pp. 69–76) and its general acceptance, the taxonomic situation has stabilised. As the nomenclatural facts are clear and call for no intervention by the Commission, the way is clear for completion of the entry in the Official List.

2. The date of publication of *Rhabditis* Dujardin, *Hist. nat. Helminth.*, pp. 239–243 is [Nov. 1844], as stated by Sherborn, *Index Animalium*, p. 5492. The evidence for this is in *Bibliographie de la France*, 33e année (47e de la collection), No. 44, samedi 2 nov. 1844, p. 574, entry no. 5460.

3. *Rhabditis* was established with four included nominal species: *R. terricola* Dujardin [Nov. 1844], *Vibrio acetis* O. F. Müller, 1783, *V. triticeis* Steinbuch, 1799 and *V. glutinis* O. F. Müller, 1783.

4. Stiles & Hassall, 1905, *Bull. Bur. anim. Ind.*, no. 79, pp. 45–46, 134, thought that Bastian, 1865, *Trans. linn. Soc. London*, vol. 25 (2), p. 129, had designated *R. terricola* as type species. In fact, Bastian merely referred to 'the typical *R. terricola*', and from the context, he may have meant 'typical specimens of the species' rather than 'the typical species of the genus'. Even the latter would still not have constituted a designation of a type species. However, the fact that Stiles & Hassall clearly stated their belief and clearly accepted that *R. terricola* was the type species means that they themselves made the designation under Article 69a(iv).

5. At that time the identity of *R. terricola* was in doubt. It remained so until Dougherty, 1953, *Thapar commem. vol.*, pp. 69–76, synonymised the clearly identifiable *R. aspera* Bütschli, 1873 with it. Bütschli described his species in *N. Acta (Verh.) k. leop.-carolin. deutsch. Akad. Naturf.*, vol. 36 (5), pp. 100, 113. This has been accepted by Goodey, T., 1963, *Soil freshw. Nematodes* (London, Methuen), p. 208; by Tarjan, A. C., 1960, *Checklist plant soil nematodes* (Univ. Florida Press, Gainesville), p. 140; and by Tarjan & Hopper, B. E., 1974, *Nomenclatorial compilation plant and soil Nematodes* (Soc. Nematol.), p. 293. In this little-studied group, usage is thus constituted.

6. Various species of *Rhabditis* have been found in human faeces and the female genital tract and in cutaneous lesions. Their pathogenic role is uncertain.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to complete entry no. 483 in the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology as follows: *Rhabditis* Dujardin, [Nov. 1844] (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation by Stiles & Hassall, 1905, *Rhabditis terricola* Dujardin, [Nov. 1844];
- (2) to place the specific name *terricola* Dujardin, [Nov. 1844], as published in the binomen *Rhabditis terricola* (specific name of type species of *Rhabditis* Dujardin, [Nov. 1844] on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.